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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/447,681

11/23/1999

JACK A. ROTH

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7590

11/30/2005

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EXAMINER

CROUCH, DEBORAH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1632

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/447,681	Applicant(s) ROTH, JACK A.	
	Examiner Deborah Crouch, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 67 and 86-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 67 and 86-89 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 November 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 21, 2005 has been entered.

Applicant's arguments filed September 21, 2005 have been fully considered but are not persuasive. The amendment has been entered. Claims 67 and 86-89 are pending.

The rejection of claims 86-89 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (1990) Science 250, 1576-1579 and Stratford-Perricaudet et al (1990) Human Gene Therapy 1, 241-256 in view of Wilkinson et al (1992) Nucleic Acids Res. 20, 2233-2239, Colicos et al (1991) Carcinogenesis 12, 249-255, Rajan et al (1991) J. Virol. 65, 6553-6561 and Hitt et al (1990) Virol. 179, 667-678 is withdrawn.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 67 and 86-89 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,830,749. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because present claims 67 and 86-89 are of overlapping scope to claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 of '749

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The present claims are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a CMV, RSV, SV40 or β -actin promoter (claims 67, 87-89). Claims 1 and 4 of '749 are drawn to recombinant adenovirus that includes an expression construct comprising a sequence encoding p53 under the control of a promoter or where the promoter is the CMV IE promoter. Claims 11 and 13 are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these particular constructs. The specification of '749 defines promoter as including RSV, SV40 or β -actin promoters. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present claims contain the same adenoviral vectors, and encompass the pharmaceutical compositions claimed in claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 of '749. Further, putting the adenoviral vectors of '749 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is obvious given claims 11 and 13 of that patent. Thus at the time of the instant invention, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan to make the presently claimed pharmaceutical compositions given claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 of '749.

Claims 67 and 86 remain provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 8 of U.S. Patent 6,905,873 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claims are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a CMV (claim 67). Claims 1 and 8 of '873 are drawn to recombinant adenovirus, which carries an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control a CMV IE promoter and an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control a CMV IE promoter.

Claims 67 and 86 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12 and

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15-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,410,010 B1 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claims are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a CMV (claim 67). Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10 and 15-18 of '010 are drawn to recombinant adenovirus which carries an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control a CMV IE promoter.

Claims 86-89 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,410,010 B1 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claim is to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a β -actin, SV40 or RSV (claims 87-89). Claim 12 of '010 is drawn to recombinant adenovirus, which carries an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control a promoter. The pharmaceutical composition of present claims 86-89 contains the same recombinant adenovirus as encompassed in claim 12 of '010.

Claims 67 and 86 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 7 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,511,847 B1 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claims are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a CMV (claim 67). Claims 1, 7 and 12 of '847 are drawn to an

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adenovirus expression vector comprising an adenovirus expression vector comprising an ITR and a p53 gene under the control of a CMV promoter.

Applicant argues that the obviousness type double patenting rejections above, where present claims containing pharmaceutical composition language were rejected over issued claims not containing such language is inconsistent with the PTO's previous position in a related and issued case, and, thus, could raise an issue of validity regarding certain claims in the patents cited above. Applicant argues that another examiner took an opposite position with regards to the issue of obviousness type double patenting. Applicant argues that another examiner maintained an obviousness type double patenting rejection between pharmaceutical composition claims and methods of treatment using the pharmaceutical compositions, but made no such rejection of pharmaceutical composition and method of treatment claims over composition claims. The relevant patents are those cited above in the obviousness type double patenting rejection. Applicant argues the previous examiner's findings are inconsistent with those of the present examiner. Applicant argues that both validity of issued patents and patent term are affected by the switch in positions. These arguments are not persuasive.

The presently maintained obviousness type double patenting rejections have been extensively reviewed and have been deemed proper. Further, each case is examined on its own merits.

Claims 67 and 86 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 64 and 78 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,320 B1 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claims are to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the

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promoter is a CMV (claim 67). Claims 64 and 78 of '320 are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a recombinant adenovirus containing an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control a CMV promoter and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, expedient or diluent.

Claims 86-89 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 77 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,320 B1 for reasons presented in the office action mailed June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

The present claim is to pharmaceutical compositions comprising adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to a promoter (claim 86) and where the promoter is a β -actin, SV40 or RSV (claims 87-89). Claim 77 of '320 are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a recombinant adenovirus containing an adenovirus vector construct comprising an expression region encoding p53 under the control of a promoter and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, expedient or diluent.

Based on the footnote, page 3, of the response filed September 21, 2005, applicant agrees to file a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,740,320. However, there is no such mention in the response to the outstanding rejection.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 67 and 86-89 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention for reasons presented in the

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office actions mailed April 12, 2001, February 12, 2002, September 27, 2002, May 28, 2003, September 9, 2003, June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2004.

In summary, the present specification fails to convey that at the time of their earliest claimed priority date, October 13, 1992, that applicant's had possession of the claimed invention. Presently amended claims are to adenoviral vectors comprising a wild-type p53 gene under the control of a promoter, wherein the vector is comprised in a pharmaceutical composition. The claims specifically, state that the promoter can be a CMV, β -actin, SV40 or RSV promoter. It is maintained that the present specification fails to provide sufficient disclosure that applicant's contemplated the claimed adenoviral vectors either figuratively or specifically. The description disclosed would not allow those of ordinary skill in the art to recognized that the presently claimed adenoviral vectors had been invented by applicant.

Applicant argues that the present specification provides adequate description of the invention, and that a person of ordinary skill would have recognized at the time of filing that applicant had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant provides citations for specification support of written description at their earliest priority date. Rebuttal for these citations appears below:

1. At page 9, lines 6-12, the specification states generally "in one specific embodiment, the invention concerns vector constructs for introducing wild type p53 genes ..."; "... wherein the wt-p3 is placed under the control of the β -actin promoter, and the unit is positioned in reverse orientation into a retroviral vector." Therefore, this citation discloses a "specific embodiment" of a vector constructs for introducing wild-type p53 into cells, and states "these embodiments involve the preparation of a gene expression unit where the wt-p53 gene is placed under the control of the β -actin promoter, and the unit is positioned in a reverse orientation into a retroviral vector." In this discussion, the only contemplation is stated to be a retroviral vector having in reverse orientation a wt-p53 gene

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operatively linked to a promoter. There is no contemplation of an adenoviral vector comprising a CMV promoter, or any other specifically claimed promoter, operatively linked to a wt-p53 gene at this place in the specification. Without evidence of contemplation, there is no possession at the time of filing.

2. At page 61, lines 29-30, the only vector discussed to express wild type p53 in both orientations is a retroviral vector. There is no specific disclosure of adenovirus vectors at this citation, and thus there is no evidence provided here that appellant had possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing. Thus, this citation fails to provide the needed support for written description.

3. At page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 4, the effect which is stated to be achievable with other promoter/vector constructs, is the enhanced expression when the promoter in the retrovirus is reversed with regard to other promoters within the retrovirus (page 8, lines 25-31). This citation discusses the discovery that when the selected promoter/gene construct is aligned within the vector in an orientation that is reversed with respect to direction of transcription with respect to other promoters within the vector, a dramatic increase in transcription of the selected gene is seen. Then the passage goes on to discuss the use of retroviral vectors where the transcription of the selected gene is in reverse orientation to other retroviral transcription. The passage continues by stating that while the increase in transcription was observed using the β -actin promoter and retroviral vector, the inventors believe that the increase will be seen other promoter/vector constructs. The examiner will agree that Appellant has contemplated in general vectors having the gene of interest operatively linked to promoter, and having both in reverse orientation for transcription relative to transcription of other genes in the vector. However, the support for other than retrovirus does not support the species of adenovirus vector comprising a CMV

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promoter, or any other promoter. There is no evidence provided at this citation that appellant was in possession of the claimed subject matter at the time of filing.

4. At page 14, lines 21-23, are not seen as supporting written description. A reading of the specification from at least page 5, line 7 to at least page 16, line 10, shows that this citation is embedded in a paragraph discussing antisense technology. This citation does state that "in addition to retroviruses, it is contemplated that other vectors can be employed, including adenovirus". However, when read in context of the paragraph, one would realize that the adenovirus contemplated contains antisense sequences. The larger relevant citation (page 14, lines 9-25) states "in broader aspects of the invention, a preferred approach will involve the preparation of retroviral vectors", "although the retrovirus would inhibit the growth of the tumor, the expression of the antisense construct in non-tumor cells", "in addition to retroviruses, it is contemplated adenoviruses". As discussed above the entire paragraph, page 14, lines 9-25, contemplates only antisense. This only supports an adenoviral vector comprising an antisense construct and not the adenovirus of the claims. Thus, this citation fails to provide evidence of possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.

5. At page 33, lines 9-11, states more than "by way of illustration mention the following vectors ... adenovirus ...". However, the paragraph begins "the particular vector which one employs for introduction of antisense intron coding sequences is not believed to be particularly crucial to the practice of the present invention... by way of illustration, but not limitation, one can mention the following vectors, including N2A, LN, LNSX, Adenovirus and Adeno-associated virus. Thus the concept disclosed at this citation is that adenovirus can be used to introduce antisense introns.

6 and 7. At page 15, lines 1-4, and page 14, line 35 to page 15, line 2, each citation is embedded in a paragraph that begins "the particular promoter that is employed to control

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the expression of the antisense RNA". Furthermore, page 15, line 5 states that "while the β -actin promoter is preferred in the invention is by no means limited to this promoter, and one may also mentionCMV." However, when the entire paragraph is read, "the invention" at this point is the expression of antisense sequences. Please refer to the paragraph at page 14, line 27 "the particular promoter that is employed to control the expression of the antisense RNA in a vector construct is not believed to be particularly crucial where a human cell is targeted, it will be preferred to position the antisense RNA coding region adjacent to and under the control of a promoter that is capable of being expressed in a human cell ... generally speaking, such a promoter might include either a human cellular or viral promoter..... while the β -actin promoter is preferred CMV". Page 14, line 35 to page 15, line 2, states "generally speaking, such a promoter might include either a human cellular or viral promoter.....". However, when read in the full context, as discussed above (page 14, lines 21-23), the description is for "generally speaking" regarding promoters for use in retroviruses comprising antisense sequences, and not the claimed invention. A reading of the complete paragraph assigns the citation provided by Appellant to refer only to retrovirus vectors expressing antisense. There is no written support for the claimed invention.

8. At page 16, lines 5-10, the specification states "while the retrovirus construct aspect concerns the use of a β -actin promoter in reverse orientation, there is no limitation on the nature of the selected gene ..."; "thus, the invention concerns the use of antisense coding constructs as well as "sense" constructs that encode a desired proteins. The contemplation is clearly for other genes expressed in the sense or antisense orientation from the β -actin promoter in a retroviral vector. The specification at this point does not discuss adenovirus as a contemplated vector, the CMV promoter as the contemplated

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promoter or wt-p53 as the contemplated gene. Thus, this citation fails to provide written description of the claimed invention.

It is clear from each citation given by applicant that the contemplation in the specification is for an adenovirus comprising antisense, or retrovirus comprising a p53 gene, and not an adenoviral vector comprising a p53 gene. Further, when reading the specification as a whole there is no concept of an adenovirus comprising a p53 gene. The specification does contemplate such either clearly, literally, figuratively or even in the most remote fashion. The artisan reading the present specification would not have realized that the specification ever disclosed an adenovirus comprising a p53 gene operably linked to a promoter or a CMV promoter as part of applicant's invention.

Applicant argues that declarations by those of ordinary skill in the art have been supplied: Dr. Lou Zumstein and Dr. Philip Hands. Applicant argues that the action has not rebutted the evidence presented by these ordinary skilled artisans. Applicant argues that there is a preponderance of evidence as stated in MPEP 2163.04, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn. These arguments are not persuasive.

In previous office actions, an analysis of the specification at the citations given by declarants as evidence of written description was provided. Included was an analysis not only of the citations but also of disclosure before and after the citations. The analysis was performed as a reading of the specification and, thus, more thorough than a reading of declarant's and applicant's specific citations. The opinions of declarants Zumstein and Hands were countered with a clear explanation. This explanation has not been rebutted. (Applicant is referred to previous office actions mailed April 12, 2001, February 12, 2002, September 27, 2002, May 28, 2003, September 9, 2003, June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005).

Applicant argues that adenoviruses are disclosed in the specification more than in the context of antisense RNA production. Applicant argues that adenoviruses are discussed as

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part of the broader context of the invention disclosed on page 14, lines 9-12. Applicant argues that the following paragraph discussing promoters indeed recites particular embodiments of the invention, such as antisense. Applicant states that the specification states "generally speaking, such a promoter might include either a human cellular or viral promoter" and that the β -actin promoter is the preferred promoter but the invention is not limited to that promoter (specification, page 14, lines 35 to page 15, line 2). These arguments are not persuasive.

At each of the citations on page 14, the surrounding paragraphs are directed towards retroviral vectors and antisense expression. The disclosure of adenoviruses is within the context of substituting for retroviruses in expressing antisense. Further the context of using promoters other than the β -actin promoter is again with retrovirus expressing antisense. There is no cohesive disclosure that indicates that an adenovirus comprising a gene encoding p53 operably linked to a promoter or anyone of the claimed promoters was conveyed as an invention of applicant.

Thus, the specification fails to convey that applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing. Thus, are not entitled to the October 13, 1992 filing date. Applicant's, therefore, are entitled only to the filing date of the instant invention, November 23, 1999.

Applicant states that they have no further arguments regarding the written description rejection.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 67 and 86 remain rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu et al (1994) Cancer Research 54, 3662-3667 for reasons presented in the office action mailed September 27, 2002, May 28, 2003, September 9, 2003, June 10, 2004 and March 17, 2005.

Liu teaches an adenovirus vector comprising a wild-type p53 gene operably linked to an CMV promoter (page 3662, col. 2, parag. 4).


Applicant argues the present application is entitled to the early priority date of October 13, 1992, and thus Liu does not qualify as art against the claimed invention. This argument is not persuasive.

As applicant's arguments regarding the written description rejection were not persuasive, the rejection over Liu et al is maintained.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah Crouch, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0727. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Deborah Crouch, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1632

November 22, 2005